

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00055 050903Z

21

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /042 W

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O R 050810Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

SECSTATE WASHDC 3486

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 0055

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECGS

SUBJ: CU/ARTS: BENNY CARTER QUINTET

1. SENDING SOME OF THE NICEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD YOUR WAY. DIFFICULT TO FIND ENOUGH SUPERLATIVES TO DESCRIBE PERFORMANCES OF BENNY CARTER'S JAZZ QUINTET IN PAKISTAN. PERHAPS CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS THOROUGHLY PROFESSIONAL AND AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF THE BEST AMERICA HAS TO OFFER IN THE FIELD OF CONTEMPORARY JAZZ. ONLY DIVISION OF OPINION HERE WAS AS TO HOW GOOD THE GROUP WAS: THE WORLD'S MOST ACCOMPLISHED OR AMONG THE HANDFUL AT THE ABSOLUTE TOP.

2. A MORE FITTING OPENER TO USHER IN THIS POST'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WOULD BE HARD TO IMAGINE. FROM AMBASSADOR BYROADE'S OPENING REMARKS TO BENNY CARTER'S CLOSING REMARKS ATTENTION WAS CALLED TO THE NEXUS OF FREEDOM AND JAZZ AND OF AMERICAN'S SINGULAR CONTRIBUTION TO THE MUSICAL IDIOM OF THE WORLD.

3. IN ISLAMABAD GROUP'S VISIT WAS CO-SPONSORED BY THE
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 00055 050903Z

PAKISTAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ARTS AND THE PERFORMANCE

WAS HELD IN THE 900 SEAT LIAQUAT MEMORIAL HALL. IN LAHORE AND KARACHI THE GROUP PERFORMED IN THE AMERICAN CENTERS AND, IN KARACHI, THE PAKISTAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER.

4. ALL LOCATIONS GROUP WELL RECEIVED BY TOP-RANKED PAKISTANI AUDIENCES. DESPITE TRADITIONAL RESERVE OF MOST PAKISTANIS AND FACT THAT WESTERN MUSIC, JAZZ OR "SERIOUS", IS STILL SOMETHING MANY PAKISTANIS FIND DIFFICULT TO APPRECIATE, THE MAGNETISM OF THE BENNY CARTER GROUP GOT THROUGH THE CULTURAL BARRIERS AND MADE THEM THE BEST CULTURAL EMBASSADORS THIS POST HAS HAD IN A LONG TIME.

5. MEDIA COVERAGE WAS EXCELLENT AND STORIES APPEARED IN ALL MAJOR DAILIES. KARACHI TV ALSO TAPED THE GROUP TO BE SHOWN LATER ON NATIONWIDE TV.

6. GROUP WAS EASY TO WORK WITH AND NOT AT ALL DEMANDING. WITHOUT EXCEPTION WE FOUND THEM OPEN AND RELAXED WHILE AT SAME TIME AWARE OF, AND ADEPT AT, REPRESENTATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. OF COURSE POST GAVE THEM RED CARPET TREATMENT BUT THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE FOR SUCH A PROFESSIONAL, FIRST-CLASS GROUP.

6. POST CONGRATULATES CU FOR SELECTING SUCH AN OUTSTANDING GROUP AND IS TRULEY APPRECIATIVE OF OPPORTUNITY WE HAD TO PROGRAM THEM IN PAKISTAN.
BYROADE

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